

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 7-17 have been rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as unpatentable over Allen in view of Adams. Claims 6 is rejected as above, further in view of Evans. It is not clear whether claim 5 is rejected. However, since claim 5 is dependant upon rejected claim 1, it is assumed that same is rejected, as well.

Applicant has cancelled claims 1-17 and hereby presents a new set of claims 18 through 33. In new claim 18, as well as in new claim 33, it has been clarified that the band elements are longitudinal and transverse band elements to be connected to opposing side elements and the features of original claim 3 have been incorporated.

Adams shows an array of longitudinal straps 31, one end of each strap comprises buckles 41 and the other end of each strap comprises mating segments 43 and 45 of a hook-and-loop material. The other end is adapted to be connected to the buckles 41 for tensioning each strap, if the strap is wound around two spaced frame elements.

Further, an array of lateral straps 33 is provided, wherein each end of each lateral strap is sewn to an outermost longitudinal strap.

Accordingly, the longitudinal straps do not comprise any loops to be connected to opposing frame elements. Further, the ends of the longitudinal straps are adapted to be connected to each other and not to any frame element. Moreover, Adams does not disclose any transverse band

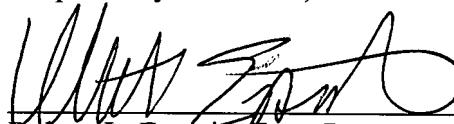
elements which may be connected to opposing frame elements. In contrast, the transverse band elements are merely connected to the outermost longitudinal straps. Besides, in contrast to the invention, Adams discloses only two side elements. Finally, Adams does not disclose any loops provided at both ends of band elements.

Last but not least, the matrix wheelchair seat of Adams is not able to affect the self-stabilizing function for a four-sided frame connected by four connecting elements, if a load acts on the bearing surface.

If the matrix wheelchair seat is connected to the cradle frame shown by Allen, not any self-stabilizing function can be provided.

It is therefore believed that the references cited, whether considered individually or in combination, do not teach the invention, as defined by new claims 18 – 33. Further, the references do not teach structure which would lead one of ordinary skill in the art to obtain a swing with applicant's the self-stabilizing function and that would be easy to assemble and disassemble, as taught in the specification.

Respectfully submitted,



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